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General Assembly

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Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 120
Strengthening of the United Nations system

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the role and authority of the General Assembly as a principal organ of the United Nations and the importance of its effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its functions under the Charter,

Recognizing, further, that the current interdependent international environment requires the strengthening of the multilateral system in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the principles of international law,

Acknowledging that, when an organization for regional integration develops common external policies and establishes permanent structures for their conduct and representation, the General Assembly may benefit from the effective participation in its deliberations of that organization's external representatives speaking on behalf of the organization and its member States,

Recalling the long-standing relations between the European Union and the United Nations,

Noting the entry into force on 1 December 2009 of the Treaty of Lisbon, by means of which the European Union has made changes to its institutional system, in particular with regard to its external representation,

Noting that, in the Treaty of Lisbon, the European Union reaffirms inter alia its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the promotion of multilateral solutions to common problems, in particular in the framework of the United Nations,

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Noting also that, under the Treaty of Lisbon, the States members of the European Union have entrusted the external representation of the European Union, with regard to the exercise of the competences of the European Union provided for by the Treaty of Lisbon, to the following institutional representatives: the President of the European Council, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Commission and European Union delegations,

Noting further that the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is assisted by a European External Action Service, which includes European Union delegations,

Noting that the representatives of the European Union referred to above have assumed the role, previously performed by the representatives of the member State holding the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union, of acting on behalf of the European Union at the United Nations in the exercise of the competences conferred by its member States,

Recalling that, by virtue of the Treaty of Lisbon, the European Union has replaced the European Community, as notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by a letter dated 30 November 2009,

Noting that the European Union is a party to many instruments concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and an observer or participant in several specialized agencies and United Nations bodies,

Noting that the European Union retains observer status in the General Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the representatives of the European Union, for the purposes of participating effectively in the sessions and work of the General Assembly, including in the general debate, and its committees and working groups, in international meetings and conferences convened under the auspices of the Assembly, as well as in United Nations conferences, and in order to present positions of the European Union, shall be invited to speak in a timely manner, similar to the established practice for representatives of major groups, shall be permitted to circulate documents, to make proposals and submit amendments, to raise points of order, but not to challenge decisions of the presiding officer, and to exercise the right of reply, and be afforded seating arrangements which are adequate for the exercise of the aforementioned actions; the European Union shall not have the right to vote or to put forward candidates in the General Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take any measures necessary to ensure the implementation of the present decision.